

NOTE

The correct spelling of the scientific name
for the brown citrus aphid

In 1907, Kirkaldy (1907. Proceedings of the Hawaiian Entomological Society 1: 99–102) described *Myzus citricidus* and reported that it was similar to *Myzus cerasi*, that it was very common on *Citrus* throughout the Hawaiian Islands, and that it was probably an introduction from China.

This aphid is commonly called the brown citrus aphid (BrCA), in contrast to the black citrus aphid (BICA), *Toxoptera aurantii* (Boyer de Fonscolombe), and has long been known to occur in south eastern Asia, Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands, southern Africa, and subtropical and warm temperate parts of South America. Until recently, the brown citrus aphid was not known to occur in the citrus-growing area of the Middle East, the Mediterranean Region, the Caribbean, or Central and North America. However, in 1991, one alate brown citrus aphid was collected in a yellow pan trap in melon fields in Costa Rica (Voegtlin, D. & W. Villalobos M. 1992. Florida Entomologist 75(1): 161–162).

In 1992, I identified several brown citrus aphids from collections in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Puerto Rico. In April 1993, I identified several brown citrus aphids from collections in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and in Jamaica. While this aphid is still not known to occur in the continental United States, it is apparent that it could soon reach the citrus-growing areas in the southern United States.

Because this aphid is of great economic concern, it is important to settle questions concerning the spelling of the specific epithet. Clearly Kirkaldy intended "citrus-killer" as the specific name; and as such, the spelling of the species name should have been *citricida*, which, as a verbal noun in

apposition, would retain its proper ending whatever the gender of the generic name with which it is combined. The spelling of *citricida* is like that in *fratricida*, *homicida*, *patricida*, and *suicida* which are all nouns derived from verbs, which do not change for gender accord, and from which come such words as *fratricidal*, *homicidal*, *patricidal*, and *suicidal*. However, Kirkaldy used *citricidus* which is a latinized adjective with a masculine ending to agree with the genus *Myzus*; and, according to Article 32c (ii) of the Code (International Code of Zoological Nomenclature, Third Edition, 1985, University of California Press, Berkeley) incorrect latinization is not to be considered an inadvertent error.

The genus *Toxoptera* Koch (1856. Nürnberg. Heft 8: 237–274) is derived from the Greek words *toxon* meaning bow and *ptero-* meaning wing and is feminine. According to Article 31b of the Code (Idem.), an adjectival species name must agree in gender with the generic name with which it is combined. Therefore, the correct scientific name for the brown citrus aphid is *T. citricida* (Kirkaldy).

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